

MINUTES

UAF Faculty Senate Meeting #216

Monday, September 12, 2016 1:00 - 3:00 PM - Wood Center Carol Brown Ballroom

I Call to Order - Orion Lawlor

A. Roll Call

Faculty Senate Members Present:	Members Present - continued
ABRAMOWICZ, Ken (18)	QUICK, Kate (18)
AGUILAR-ISLAS, Ana (18)	TILBURY, Jennifer (17)
ANAHITA, Sine (18)	TOPKOK, Sean (18)
ARNDT, Kathy (17)	TUTTLE, Siri (17)
BACSUJLAKY, Mara (18) – Art Nash	WILDFEUER, Sandra (18)
BARNES, Bill (18)	ZHANG, Mingchu (18)
BENOWITZ, Jeff (18)	
BOLTON, Bob (18)	Members absent:
BRET-HARTE, Donie (17)	AGGARWAL, Srijan (18)
CARROLL, Jennie (17)	COLLINS, Eric (17)
CROSKREY, Wendy (18)	HAMPTON, Don (17)
CUNDIFF, Nicole (17)	PETERSON, Rorik (17)
DIERENFIELD, Candi (17) – via Zoom	
FALLEN, Chris (18)	
FARMER, Daryl (17)	
GIFFORD, Valerie (17)	
HARDY, Sarah (17) – via Zoom	Others Present:
HARNEY, Eileen (17) – Sarah Stanley 2nd hr.	FAC Chair: Andreas Anger
HARRIS, Norm (17) – via Zoom	RAC Chair: Jamie Clark
HUNT, Steve (18)	Robin Shoaps, Alt.
ICKERT-BOND, Stefanie (18)	Cindy Hardy, Alt.
LAWLOR, Orion (17)	Dana Thomas, Susan Henrichs, Alex Fitts
LILJEDAHN, Anna (18)	Mark Herrmann, SOM Dean
LUNN, Lisa (17)	Guest: UA President Jim Johnsen
MAIER, Jak (17)	Laura McCollough, Chris Coffman,
MAKAREVICH, Roman (18)	Mike Earnest, Faye Gallant, Colby Freel
MATWEYOU, Julie (18)	Joy Morrison, Karina Gonzales, Carol Gering
MAXWELL, David (18)	
MAY, Jeff (18)	
MEYER, Franz (17)	
NEWBERRY, Rainer (17)	
REMBER, Rob (17)	

B. Approval of [Minutes for Meeting #215](#)

The minutes for meeting #215 (May 2016) were approved as submitted.

C. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as submitted.

II Status of Chancellor's Office Actions

A. [Motions approved May 2, 2016](#):

1. Motion to approve the 2015-2016 degree candidates
2. Motion to approve Unit Criteria for the Natural Sciences
3. Motion to approve new Graduate Certificate in Resilience and Adaptation
4. Motion to extend deadline for submission of Communication Plans
5. Motion to approve new Minor in Sustainable Agriculture
6. Motion to approve revisions to the Grade Appeals Policy

B. Motions pending: None

III A. President's Remarks - Orion Lawlor [*Timestamp: 06:12 on recording.*]

After welcoming everyone, Orion spoke about the work done on the Strategic Pathways teams during the summer. Faculty Alliance members served on those committees. He served on the Engineering team which had an interesting and productive experience with the process. The team came out of it realizing how much opportunity there was for collaboration between UAF and UAA in engineering.

There was a wide variety in what people experienced on the teams. Other teams, in some cases, felt they were given a charge which assumed their conclusions.

If anyone has suggestions or comments on the Strategic Pathways process, and, in particular, if there is some resolution that Faculty Senate could pass that would improve that process immensely, Orion would be interested to hear it. The only weapon Faculty Senate has is Reason, so if we can explain what we don't like about the process and present ways it could be improved, there's a serious chance those suggestions could be adopted. Only registering one's dislike of the process will not change anything.

Sine A. noted that Athletics held news conferences after Phase One; no one else did. Athletics controlled the conversation. If news conferences could be done at each phase for each program, then perhaps academics could get more attention than athletics.

B. President-Elect's Remarks - Chris Fallen [*Timestamp: 08:50 on the recording.*]

Chris welcomed everyone and noted the presence of former Mayor Luke Hopkins and a candidate for state senate among the public visitors.

He noted the goal of improving communication by moving to editable Google Docs with the agenda, as well as dealing with the governance office budget reductions. Communicating via Google Docs (via the Comments feature) also allows for direct communication among senators, rather than requiring Jayne to function in the middle.

Chris reminded the members of their core mission as written in the Faculty Senate Constitution. Keeping a sharper focus on the core mission of the Senate is another way of being able to do more with fewer resources. He read the following portion from the preamble, and encouraged senators to read through the rest of the articles of the document:

Under Board of Regents' Policy, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Faculty Senate is formed so that the faculty may carry out its professional responsibility as the legislative body of the University of Alaska Fairbanks in matters of instruction, research/creative activity, and service.

He also reminded members to read the charges for their respective committees in the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The charge of the Administrative Committee, for example, is to prepare the senate agenda and materials for the efficient operation of the senate.

IV A. Interim Chancellor's Remarks - Dana Thomas [*Timestamp: 11:22 on recording.*]

Chancellor Thomas welcomed everyone, thanking them for their service on the Senate. He noted he has returned to UAF because it's a pivotal year in its history with regard to Strategic Pathways and the budget situation. He recapped his long history with UA and UAF as a past student, faculty member for 28 years, department chair for Mathematics and Statistics, vice provost and accreditation liaison officer, and UA vice president for academic affairs and research, before retiring in 2014. President Johnsen asked him to return to UAF as interim chancellor, and he was happy to accept the role.

He shared some good news on the status of Alumni Drive which will go back to its normal configuration on or about September 25. He noted that UAF is now listed as a US News and World Report Tier 1 national institution for the first time. Backpackers Magazine named UAF as the number 1 institution for backpackers and outdoor activities.

Enrollment data to date is down a bit, but not as far down as UAA and UAS. It's down more in the vocational/technical/certificate/associates areas. It's flat on campus. Enrollment is up at School of Management, the College of Natural Science and Mathematics, and at the Kuskokwim Campus. We're also enrolling more UA Scholars than before.

He mentioned business items coming up with regard to UAF at the Board of Regents' meeting. These include the name change for the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences to the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. The Board will also hear from the President and Chancellor Thomas concerning the single vs. separate accreditation. Dana will talk about his report which was written when he worked as an independent contractor over the summer. The Board could decide upon the issue (keep separate accreditation or pursue single accreditation), or they might choose to delay action until after Strategic Pathways has run its course.

He hopes faculty will engage during this important year, and invited faculty feedback and questions.

B. Provost's Remarks - Susan Henrichs [*Timestamp: 19:38 on recording.*]

Provost Henrichs thanked faculty for their service, both on Faculty Senate and as faculty, noting the achievements described by Chancellor Thomas were their accomplishments. She

emphasized that she wants to be accessible to faculty and listen to their concerns and viewpoints. Of course she can't say yes to every request, but does want to know what their needs and challenges are. She will be scheduling visits to some of the units and departments with greater anticipated concerns. But, individual faculty can schedule appointments with her office, and she is always available via email.

C. Senate Members' Questions / Comments (2 Min.)

No comments were made by the senate members.

V Public Comment

No public comments were made.

VI Governance Reports

A. Staff Council - Faye Gallant [*Timestamp: 21:48 on the recording.*]

President Gallant spoke about staff concerns regarding Strategic Pathways and single accreditation. She shared that SC Vice President Nate Bauer is chairing Staff Alliance this year. She noted that SC elections coming up and asked that faculty encourage their staff to become involved in governance. She also reported that SC will be focusing on furloughs which are being used at three units this year, particularly because there is a difference in how leave accrual works for exempt vs. non-exempt staff under furloughs.

B. ASUAF - Colby Freel ([ASUAF Report](#) linked) [*Timestamp: 24:58 on the recording.*]

Colby Freel, ASUAF student body president, introduced Matt M., one of his fellow colleagues. He thanked faculty for their service, especially as he's aware they're doing more with less. He commented on student concerns about the Strategic Pathways, but noted they found the recent forum to be very helpful. One of the concerns regarding Athletics is that students are not afforded a teach-out aspect if Athletics were to go away. He also mentioned student concerns about the Title IX implementation of Haven training. Concerns include the fee charged to complete the training, and lack of student support for the training and its fee. The trainings are 30 days apart, which is too far apart. And, there are privacy concerns among students. Students would rather see a single 1-credit course created instead that covers all those types of issues and includes financial literacy, study skills, as well as other areas like Title IX and Haven training.

Jeff B. asked Colby if low-income students would be charged a course fee to take the course, since he had mentioned the current fee was prohibitive, and a course fee would likely be greater. Colby responded that they hope the course is low to no-cost, and that it could replace or fold in other GERs such as Library Science.

C. UNAC - Chris Coffman [*Timestamp 30:00 on the recording.*]

Chris noted that United Academics is watching closely as Strategic Pathways unfolds. She also mentioned that negotiations start soon on the current CBA that ends in December. She thanked faculty for feedback and suggestions about the negotiation team members. There will be a

general membership meeting on Sept. 21. Tony Rickard, chief negotiator, will give presentation. She also mentioned the newly re-designed union web site at: <http://unitedacademics.net/>

Chris F. asked if the negotiation team roster is available on the UNAC web site. Chris C. didn't think it was posted there yet, but recapped the membership and noted one change made since she shared about it last spring. Anna L. asked how membership will be kept informed on the negotiations. Chris C. reiterated the Sept. 21 meeting is being held so members can talk with the chief negotiator, and periodic updates will be sent out to the membership as per past practice.

UNAD - Katie Boylan [*Timestamp 33:10 on the recording.*]

Orion noted that Katie did submit a written report. Katie announced they have an e-Board meeting coming up in which they'll receive negotiation training. She noted a radio program that was done by Sine Anahita which provided information pertinent to adjuncts. She hosted interviews with Provost Henrichs, Kate Quick and Katie herself. It aired on Labor Day on KWRK, and offered a balanced perspective and provided awareness about adjuncts at UAF. It's been recorded online: https://soundcloud.com/sine_anahita/adjunct-instructors

UAFT - Kate Quick [*Timestamp 34:40 on the recording.*]

Kate reported that an e-board meeting was held last Friday, though nothing major to report from that. She reminded UAFT members that their annual activities reports are due on Sept. 15.

D. Athletics - Dani Sheppard

No report was available.

E. Senate Members' Questions / Comments

There were no comments and questions at this time.

VII Discussion with Guest: UA President Jim Johnsen
Topic: Strategic Pathways [*Timestamp 36:25 on the recording.*]

President Johnsen's general remarks included public thanks to Dana Thomas for returning as the interim UAF chancellor. He extended congratulations to UAF for reaching Tier I status nationally, noting the importance of that achievement. He commented about UAF holding its own regarding enrollment. He mentioned his appreciation for UAF leadership who provided him with a thoughtful and focused presentation on how to drive enrollment in the years to come. A ten-year framework for a plan will be shared with the BOR this week on driving enrollment and tying it to university finances so there is a sustainable financial picture and strong enrollment performance in the future.

President Johnsen recapped some items that will come up at the BOR meeting, including the change of name for the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences to the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. The BOR will make a fifth and final decision about approving funding to complete the Engineering Building (by approving the necessary bonds.)

He noted his appreciation for Colby's remarks on the Title IX Haven training, and he, too, hopes there is a better way to incentivize the training than a \$150 fine to students. He expressed appreciation to UAF, acknowledging the courage of the entire campus over the past year in stepping up to address the Title IX issues. He mentioned that at the end of this month, the federal Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights' report will go from the Seattle office to Washington, D.C.; and then they expect a final report to come from Washington in about six months. He hopes that the steps this university has taken over the past year will be considered very seriously and in a positive light by the Department of Education. His basis for that is the fact that they are pointing to UAF as a model when other universities ask what they should do in this particular situation.

President Johnsen extended thanks to faculty for their input, comments at public forums, and letters to the editor, etc., concerning Strategic Pathways. He recapped the budget context of why Strategic Pathways (SP) are needed by the University of Alaska. SP provides a means to relatively quick decision-making, and allows for options to be made openly and inclusively.

Phase 1 reports are in for the seven areas initially identified for review (three academic, three administrative, and intercollegiate athletics). In terms of the administrative areas (research administration, procurement, and IT) decisions can be made by university administration without BOR approval. In terms of academics, more analyzation of the options and implementation needs to be done before moving ahead with decisions, and he expects the BOR will make recommendations rather than decisions. Consultation with faculty across the universities also needs to occur. With regard to intercollegiate athletics, he will ask the BOR for their support to move forward with pursuing a couple of options to reduce cost but maintain some athletic programs at the university. Athletics and its teams are in BOR Policy, so their authority is needed to make any changes in that area. He hopes that by November the Board is in a position to make some decisions.

Phase 2 of SP begins in October. They will be looking Human Resources, University Relations, Institutional Research, Student Affairs, community campuses, e-learning, Fisheries, and health programs. Faculty and governance representatives will be included on the teams.

President Johnsen commented on the UA Single Accreditation report, noting that he's been persuaded by the report that there is sufficient opportunity to pursue SP improvements to the university without single accreditation "for now." He commented, though, that it must be kept on the table for possibly pursuing again later on, in case they are not able to achieve the kinds of administrative efficiencies, collaboration and coordination that are needed to become more cost effective while expanding access to and quality of the university.

Jamie C. asked about the issue of producing teachers in-state for Alaska, and what the university can do about it if students aren't coming here to study education. Shouldn't the school districts be doing more about this? The President responded that we must work with the K-12 system to align curricula within the school system and the university; and, in order to strengthen the performance and readiness of our students we need to produce higher quality teachers (e.g., require discipline degrees for all teachers). Also, many college bound students leave Alaska, and students aren't seeing enough alumni teachers in their high schools. The issues are complicated by the education system with 53 districts in the state. It's absolutely

critical to change our education culture within the state. Everyone shares in the responsibility to enhance the state's education future, which can be furthered by growing our own teachers.

Anna L. asked if there are specific plans to educate our state legislators this year, in light of the lessons learned last year. President Johnsen responded that once we learn who they are, they will indeed be talking to them and sharing the undeniable data about the return made by the state on investing in the university. As much as possible is done to inform them, but sometimes perceptions of voter preference play a big role with individual legislators.

Jak M. noted the surprise to the Community and Technical College when a potential move of its Applied Business program to the School of Management was included in Phase 1 of SP. Will the faculty involved be given time and opportunity for input before such a decision is made? President Johnsen said it will be addressed in the documents shared with the Board of Regents this week, and he thanked Andreas Anger for testifying at the SP forum event.

Jeff B. asked a question concerning enrollment. Currently, the state subsidizes every student at \$20,000 which keeps tuition low; but, even if we increase student enrollment, if the state doesn't keep subsidizing to the level it has been, will tuition be increased? President Johnsen said yes, tuition will have to be increased in light of the current budget situation. A tuition plan that moves with the enrollment plan is necessary, so that enrollment is not undermined. It's an important piece of the puzzle they are working on.

Ken A. commented on the longer class-time length here at UAF vs. that of Anchorage classes. UAF instructors teach an additional two and a half weeks of class time. With the ongoing process of unifying and coordinating the universities, how will this substantive difference between the universities be addressed? The President responded that he's disappointed and frustrated with the situation because it seems like an issue they should be able to come to agreement on, and more quickly than has been the case. In the SP discussion that he will provide to the BOR later this week, the intent will be included to press for as much commonality between the three universities as possible, while still maintaining distinctions that are critical for the special strengths of each university. The President doesn't think, however, that the length of a class or those sorts of things really add or detract from an institution's excellence or the quality of its courses. Ken disagreed, noting that course length will certainly be an issue when it comes to course-shopping done by students.

VIII New Business – *This item was considered following the break and guest speaker in the second hour of the meeting. [Timestamp 1:08:25 on the recording.]*

A. [Resolution on UA Single Accreditation](#)

Many edits (minor and major) were made 'live' to the resolution document shared on Google Docs during the discussion at the meeting. The final approved version is posted under Actions of Meeting #216 on the [FS Meetings page](#), and is included as an attachment (below). The resolution was passed unanimously as amended on the floor. Senate leadership will take the approved resolution to the Faculty Alliance.

2:00 BREAK occurred at 2:04 PM.

IX Guest: Laura McCollough, Dean of Students [*Timestamp 1:04:16 on the recording.*]

Laura McCollough, dean of students, provided a handout to the group which shares her goals. (The handout has been posted on the [FS Meetings page](#).) She invited feedback and suggestions to help her make sure she is working effectively on things of concern to the faculty. She spoke about the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) and its membership, and shared briefly about speaking at Terrance Cole's class on the Haven training.

X Discussion Items

A. [Faculty Alliance Reports](#) – (linked to Senate web site where documents are posted)

Orion commented about the reports provided by Faculty Alliance. Faculty Alliance has teleconferences every two weeks, and Orion and Chris are available to take feedback and comments from the Faculty Senate back to those meetings.

B. Q&A with Dana Thomas [*Timestamp 1:30:10 on the recording.*]

Chancellor Thomas spoke about the Haven training requirement and fee imposed on students if it's not completed. He provided some background of the decisions behind the fee which has increased the response rate from 12% up to about 80+%. He also talked about the suggestion that came from the Coalition of Student Leaders, which Colby mentioned in his comments, to have a required General Education course. This has implications because BOR Policy requires General Education requirements to be the same across the system. However, this would not reach the students in two-year programs, or graduate students, for example. Having heard from the students, Chancellor Thomas and campus leadership would like input from the Faculty Senate about what they think is the right direction.

Sine A. reiterated concerns that she had written about in a *Daily News-Miner* letter to the editor. The training is not of sufficient quality and includes a very intrusive questionnaire which further traumatizes students who have been previously victimized. The director and associate director of Student Health & Counseling have met with leadership to communicate their concerns about re-traumatizing victims by further imposing a fine on them if they refuse to take the training. This potentially leaves them unable to enroll in a future semester, on top of that.

Chancellor Thomas mentioned that because UAF is leading the nation in moving forward with Title IX as President Johnsen had noted, an increase in the reporting of cases is actually expected as students see the process starting to work and gain confidence in it. He asked for faculty help in finding a good path through the process of improving education in this area.

Jak M. commented that a carrot is needed, not a stick. She also asked about the possibility of creating the training in-house rather than utilizing a for-profit company which then has access to students' private information. She suggested asking departments to step up and create something.

Ken A. commented about the potential to create ill-will among the students on this matter. This ill-will could also affect the credibility of the results.

Chancellor Thomas reiterated that he's hearing a lot of interest in finding a different path, so he's asking for the Senate's help in finding that better approach.

Siri T. asked how the success of this training would be judged. She inquired about having more than just one training instrument. Some folks do well with online training, and others simply don't.

Chancellor Thomas responded that ASUAF students really wanted a compressed class, offered at the start of the semester, and offered in-person. The need to have an option for convenient online training was acknowledged, however, in the conversation Dana had with ASUAF President Colby Freel. The "in-person" and "class" factors do raise the cost and place a burden on the university during a fiscally challenging time. However, student safety and the Title IX issues are very high priority and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

Jeff B. asked about the effects on course quality from increased enrollment and class size. What is the optimal number of students for both the financial reasons and for quality education. Could higher quality be a better approach?

Chancellor Thomas responded that we have capacity even given our current budget. We would need a bit more tuition to accomplish some of the goals they have in mind. But, there's a role for improved retention rates, particularly at the upper division level so that UAF graduation rates are in line with peer institutions. He noted that UAF is surpassing its peers in first-time full-time freshmen baccalaureate student retention, but falters at the upper division level. Some of that has to do with less scholarships being available to students at the upper levels. There is capacity in many low enrollment programs to take more students, and thus help reduce the cost per student.

Provost Henrichs added that the enrollment increase being aimed for is 35%. This would make the student/faculty ratios more comparable to peer institutions and utilize classroom and course capacities to their fullest, but not beyond their fullest. It would bring in more tuition revenue to help offset the real costs of adding to the student body. If tuition is raised to market rates within the west, and by increasing the enrollment as much as the stated goals, we might get \$8.5 or \$9 million in additional revenues. That would allow them to cover some of the gaps, and she believes quality education could be retained at the same time.

XI Public Comments

No public comments were made.

XII Members' Comments/Questions/Announcements

A. General Comments / Announcements

No general comments or announcements were made.

B. Committee Chair / Convener Comments

(An active link is added if minutes are submitted.)

Administrative Committee - Chris Fallen, Chair

Curricular Affairs - Jennie Carroll, Chair ([Minutes of 04/27/2016](#) linked)

Faculty Affairs - Andy Anger, Chair

Unit Criteria - Mara Bacsujlaky, Chair ([Minutes of 08/30/2016](#) linked)

Committee on the Status of Women - Ellen Lopez, Diana DiStefano - Co-Chairs ([Minutes of 08/23/2016](#) linked)

Core Review - Andy Seitz, Convener
Curriculum Review - Rainer Newberry, Chair
Student Academic Development and Achievement
 - Sandra Wildfeuer, Chair ([Minutes of 04/20/2016](#) linked)
Faculty Development, Assessment and Improvement
 - Franz Meyer, Chair ([Minutes of 05/03/2016](#) linked)
Graduate Academic and Advisory - Donie Bret-Harte, Chair
 Sean Topkok, Co-Chair ([Minutes of 04/20/2016](#) linked)
Research Advisory Committee - Jamie Clark, Gordon Williams
 - Co-Chairs
Information Technology Committee - Rorik Peterson, Convener
C. Research Report - Vice Chancellor for Research Larry Hinzman
 ([VCR Report](#) linked.)

XIII Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM.

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If you participate via telephone without a nationwide calling plan, toll charges
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Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)
Meeting ID: 820 735 444

Adcom Discussion Item: Single Accreditation Resolution

Submitted by Faculty Senate President Orion Lawlor

Text of the resolution:

After much discussion and several motions, the resolution was approved as follows:

FINAL VERSION:

Regarding the recent [Thomas report analyzing single accreditation](#) [1], we agree that "Single accreditation is neither necessary nor sufficient to achieve cost savings, enhance the student experience, or improve state higher education performance measures."

We agree that the transition to single accreditation would be extremely complex and time-consuming, and the disruption due to this transition would not help the university serve its mission.

We agree that under separate accreditation, faculty at each institution can currently tailor their courses and curriculum to better meet the diverse needs of their students, rather than needing to obtain statewide approval for each new course. This sort of specialization is key to attracting potential students, who may be difficult to reach with a single "one size fits all" solution.

We support the recommendation to develop efficient organizational structures to facilitate cooperation among campuses.

We recommend the Board of Regents use the report to inform the legislature of the negative consequences of single accreditation. The Faculty Senate does not support single accreditation.

[1] Dr. Dana Thomas, "An Assessment of Single Accreditation versus Three Separate Accreditations for the University of Alaska's Three Universities," July 26, 2016.

The following was passed, as amended, at Faculty Senate Meeting #216 on Sept. 12, 2016:

RESOLUTION:

Regarding the recent [Thomas report analyzing single accreditation](#) [1], the UAF Faculty Senate agrees that "Single accreditation is neither necessary nor sufficient to achieve cost savings, enhance the student experience, or improve state higher education performance measures."

We agree that the transition to single accreditation would be extremely complex and time-consuming, and the disruption due to this transition would not help the university serve its mission.

We agree that under separate accreditation, faculty at each institution can currently tailor their courses and curriculum to better meet the diverse needs of their students, rather than needing to obtain statewide approval for each new course.

We support the recommendation to develop efficient organizational structures to facilitate cooperation and alignment among campuses.

We therefore recommend the UA Board of Regents use the report to inform the legislature of the negative consequences of single accreditation. The UAF Faculty Senate does not support single accreditation.

[1] Dr. Dana Thomas, "An Assessment of Single Accreditation versus Three Separate Accreditations for the University of Alaska's Three Universities," July 26, 2016.